

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER  
BANKS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Banks.

Christopher Banks is the Executive Director and CEO of the East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. Born twenty-seven years ago in Brooklyn, NY to immigrant parents from Trinidad and Tobago, his first-hand witness to the struggles of disenfranchised individuals in his community greatly influenced his dedication to public service and advocacy.

Mr. Banks attended the New York City High School for Leadership and Public Service, and CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice where he pursued a degree in political science. He founded the East New York United Concerned Citizens, Inc. making his dream of creating a social service and non-profit organization come true.

Over the past ten years, Mr. Banks has focused his advocacy on the areas of youth, seniors, block associations and tenant associations to provide services to the East New York community. He has worked in partnership with organizations such as NYC Citizens Committee, East New York Development Corporation, Linden Houses Tenant Association, Emerald Green Tenants Association, The Justice Fund, The East New York Council for the Aging, the National Association of Black Business and Professional Women's Brooklyn Club, and a host of other organizations.

Mr. Banks was appointed to Community Board #5, serving as one of the youngest members in the capacity of Executive Board Member and Chair of the Transportation Committee. He also served as Co-Chair of the Youth Services Committee, Co-Chair of the Aging Committee and Public Safety Committee. He is currently President of his Block Association, has previously served as President of the Black Business Professional Women's Youth Club and as an Advisory Member of the Pink House Cornerstone Program. Additionally, Mr. Banks has worked for organizations over the past eight years such as the Italian American Civil Rights League and The Federation of Multicultural Programs, and has served as an Adolescent Services liaison for the Youth Services Department. Mr. Banks is a proud member of Changing Lives Christian Center.

He is an innovative, charismatic and dynamic young man, on a mission to empower and change the dynamics of his community and the world at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 439, the Kind Amendment to H.R. 2112, I voted "aye" when I intended to vote "nay."

A TRIBUTE TO ALAN D. COHEN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alan D. Cohen.

Alan was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He is one of four siblings and is a proud graduate of the New York City school system. He received his bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and holds a master's of Science, Special Education from New York University. He is a Cahn Fellow at Columbia University.

Alan has 34 years of educational experience having filled many roles as a teacher, administrator and principal for the New York City Department of Education. He is currently a Network Leader providing support and supervision for principals in 32 New York City schools and prior to that completed seven years as principal of P.S. 69 in the Bronx. In the past he has had various responsibilities in the New York City system, including teaching, mentoring teachers and aspiring principals, high school admissions and supervising student support services. He also implemented a Reggio Emilia inspired early childhood program and spent time in Italy studying as a member of the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance and International Association Friends of Reggio Children.

Recently, he has spent his summers as a group leader at the Principal's Center Summer Institute of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He also serves as an advisory board member at the Principal's Center. He is also the recipient of the 2007 Time Warner Principals of Excellence Award and the 2006 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from Education Update.

Alan's focus is on enhancing a dynamic child-centered curriculum, fostering professional development and creating a strong sense of community. He will be returning to his passion as a building principal in September, at the Portledge School in Locust Valley, New York. Alan is the ideal educator to build on the traditions and foundations and has the professional background and the enthusiasm to establish Portledge as a leader in early childhood and elementary education.

Alan looks forward to a long future of educating the children who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Alan D. Cohen for his extraordinary accomplishments and his spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

RECOGNIZING 2011 APPOINTEES TO  
THE UNITED STATES SERVICE  
ACADEMIES

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my 2011 appointees to the United States Service Academies, an outstanding group of young Washingtonians who have a combination of academic and athletic prowess, dedication, and leadership, as they leave their fami-

lies to embark on their new lives in service to the nation: William Westbrook Moore, Atticus Lee Sawatzki, William Guy Merkle, and James David Rice.

William Westbrook Moore is my appointee to the United States Military Academy. He graduated from the Potomac School, where he was a varsity athlete and founder of the school's chess club. Atticus Lee Sawatzki departs for the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He is an alumnus of St. Anselm's Abby School, was a lifeguard for the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation and is an active parishioner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, K Street. William Guy Merkle, whom I have twice had the pleasure of nominating to the United States Air Force Academy, is an alumnus of St. Anselm's Abby School. Bill is a thespian, crack shot, and an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He returns to the Air Force Academy after completing his two year mission for his church in Japan. James David Rice leaves for the United States Naval Academy Prep School. He graduated from The Bullis School, where he was both a varsity athlete and an honors student.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men in advance for their service, in wishing them success, and in offering them the hearty congratulations of the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN  
METHODIST UNIVERSITY PRESI-  
DENT R. GERALD TURNER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southern Methodist University (SMU) President R. Gerald Turner for receiving a quadrangle on the SMU Campus named in his honor. This week current and former members of the SMU board of trustees approved the naming of the R. Gerald Turner Centennial Quadrangle. This project is currently under construction and will be complete in the fall so SMU students, faculty and campus visitors can enjoy this gathering place for many years to come.

SMU is currently celebrating its Centennial Celebration, and I commend President Turner on his accomplishments and vision for the century ahead. I am a proud alumnus of SMU, and have greatly appreciated President Turner's service and leadership. He and his wife Gail Turner have made tremendous contributions to the university and this honor is well deserved.

SMU has made amazing strides over the past century, rising from a small rural college to an internationally renowned university. From its founding in 1911 till today, SMU has graduated more than 100,000 alumni. The outstanding achievement and leadership of those alumni serves as a testament to SMU's tradition of success. With seven different schools, SMU ranks as one of the best universities in the nation. The Cox School of Business routinely ranks in the top 25 business schools in the United States. In addition to twelve alumni who are past and present Members of the